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of *Christendom*, published under Wotton's name, in 1657, but written, Mr. Pearsall Smith concludes, as early as 1594. The third is an admirably succinct biographical dictionary of the friends, correspondents and associates of Sir Henry Wotton. The fourth contains a list of Italian authors "selected and censured" by Wotton; a Character of Robert, Earl of Salisbury, apparently by his hand; and one hundred and forty-five hitherto unpublished notes of Table-Talk, probably made by some inmate or visitor of Wotton's house in Venice not later than 1610. The index, which concludes the book, is a model of what an index should be—at once analytic enough to guide one far, and not so garrulously minute as to be almost worse than none; it fills fifty-nine pages. It is preceded, incidentally, by a four-page glossary of the archaic, obsolete and rare words which occur in the letters.

Ungracious though such a summary as this may seem, hardly any other means could indicate the variety and the wealth of the material compressed within these volumes. They are not only a masterly example of individual portraiture, resulting in a noble portrait, nobly typical of a noble time. The figure of Wotton is never isolated. One feels him always in a living world, his comments on which at once revive its vitality for general readers, and preserve its details for historical scholars. You will be at pains to find, for example, documents more instructive concerning Venice, social and political, in the days when her greatness was past but her splendor still glowed. Among other things, they give much information about that effort to oppose or to restrain the Catholic reaction which is associated with the name of Paolo Sarpi. This book, in brief, is one which no student of European history during the first quarter of the seventeenth century may safely neglect. What may be found there one cannot aver; but certainly more may perhaps be found than even Mr. Pearsall Smith himself may quite know. For he has done his work as faithfully as ever artist could; and those who least guess the significance of works of art are often those who have conscientiously, enthusiastically wrought them.

BARRETT WENDELL.

Le "Relazioni Universali" di Giovanni Botero e le Origini della Statistica e dell' Antropogeografia. Per ALBERTO MAGNAGHI. (Torino: Carlo Clausen. 1906. Pp. viii, 371.)

M. MAGNAGHI's volume is an advocate's argument for Botero's priority in the science of statistics, descriptive geography and doctrines of population. The chief document about which the argument turns is, of course, the *Relazioni Universali*, but use is also made of the *Ragione di Stato* and the *Cause della Grandezza delle Città*. The claims of this illustrious authority to the first place among his contemporaries in these several lines of inquiry is argued with great skill and great erudition; so much so, indeed, as to leave the merits of the case beyond the range of legitimate opinion on the part of any but specialists in this

particular field. The great importance of Botero for all inquiries into the range of facts with which he was occupied need not be questioned, nor does it seem securely worth while to work out in detail the specific measure in which Botero borrowed and was borrowed from, either in the information which he used or in his method of presenting his materials. In neither respect does he himself enter a claim to exceptional originality or priority, either explicitly or by insinuation; nor does he hesitate to take what comes to hand, with scant acknowledgment and slight criticism (see, *e. g.*, ch. XII.). That is not where the emphasis falls, in Botero's apprehension or in that of his generation. The serious avowed purpose, the end of the inquiry, with Botero as with the rest, is a practical, or rather a pragmatic one. What is sought is a serviceable appraisement of the relative political—ultimately warlike—strength of the several states or princely houses whose inventory of forces is passed in review, analysed, scheduled and summed up. In this work Botero's unusually large, and often exceptionally detailed, information gives him an advantage, which his equally exceptional insight turns to good account; although he is, according to modern notions at least, hampered and enfeebled in his inquiry by a diffuse and rambling presentation and an insistent inclusion of irrelevant but authentic matter, and an excessive attention to what would today be considered a trivial circumstantiality. The last mentioned feature, reminiscent of scholastic erudition, may be illustrated by his enumeration of the causes of the growth of cities, which are divided into the external circumstances and the causes dependent on man. As to the external causes, men have come together to live in cities by force of authority, or by coercion, or for pleasure, or for convenience and profit. Each of these causes of the growth of cities is impartially treated, categorically and *in extenso*.

What gives Botero his indubitable value for historical students, and his chief interest for modern students occupied with inquiries similar to his own, is his "modernism". It is highly probable, at least, that the characteristics which M. Magnaghi refers to as "modern" were also the characteristics that counted most substantially toward his exerting an enduring influence in the science, although his expositor and critic makes relatively little of this matter in the volume here under review. It would be no great stretch of language to say that Botero's work is "modern" and of enduring consequence by force of mind-wandering. His avowed aim, like that of his contemporaries, is the working-out of a useful statistical compendium of information, useful as a handbook for the politicians of his time. But he is continually led afield from this pragmatic single-minded course by an exuberant curiosity, which carries him beyond what is needful and into the region of what is merely scientifically interesting. This is true both of the range of information which he covers and of the theoretical speculations and explanations which he offers in accounting for the facts that make up his report

on the state of Christendom. It is by virtue of this pragmatically idle work of supererogation that Botero had a large effect on the subsequent growth of statistics and demography as well as a large claim on the respect of the modern spokesmen of the science. As an example of this exuberant intellectual enterprise—excessive as judged from the pragmatic standpoint of the then current political writers—may be cited his theory of population quite suggestive of Malthus's *Principle*, as M. Magnaghi calls to mind (see ch. XXII.).

THORSTEIN VEBLEN.

A Calendar of the Court Minutes, etc., of the East India Company, 1635-1639. By ETHEL BRUCE SAINSBURY. With an Introduction and Notes by WILLIAM FOSTER. (Oxford: The Clarendon Press. 1907. Pp. xxxvi, 396.)

THIS book is valuable for at least three reasons. It contains material for the domestic history of the East India Company, 1635-1639, a critical time and a period for which the printed documents are comparatively scarce; secondly, there is laid open here the outworking of the system of personal government under Charles I. in years when that system was at its strongest; and thirdly, we have the intimate records of a corporation in days when shareholders stormed in vain at directors, when accounts were not fully given to the public, when political henchmen and bosses and financial promoters and magnates had formed a long enduring yet tortuous and expensive connection.

The documents calendared follow those included in the last volume of Miss Sainsbury's *Calendar of State Papers*, East India series, and consist of the Court Minute-books, January 5, 1635-December 30, 1639. But there is the gap caused by a lost volume of manuscript, July, 1637-July, 1639. These are re-enforced by abstracts of some of the documents from the East India series at the Public Record Office and of a few from the India Office Records and by entries on Indian affairs for these years from the Domestic series, *Calendar of State Papers*. Some notion of the relative position and importance of this body of material may be got from the memoranda in Birdwood: *Report on the Old Records of the India Office*, pp. 15, 16, 21, 44, 65, 80, 82, 85, 89 (cf. also AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW, XII. 878). Furthermore, some of the material here included was made use of by Hunter (*History of British India*, II., ch. 1.) and before him, though apparently to a less degree, by Bruce (*Annals of the East India Company*, I. 329-365). In particular the excellent introduction and serviceable index should be noted. We turn now to a few of the chief topics.

Information as to the local history of establishments in the East is for the most part indirect, for there are comparatively few letters from Asia. But the proceedings of the directors at home cast considerable light. Conditions were dubious. Thus the proposal to abandon Surat is debated and once resolved; complaints at the failure of the